

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Near Vainode (M56-26, E21-52) lived an old man who worked on his farm and was an independent farmer until spring 1949. He owned 19 hectares and kept five cows, two horses, eight sheep, and fowl. The taxes were raised higher and higher and for 1949 were scheduled to be 19,000 rubles. It was impossible to pay this amount, and he wanted to join the kolkhoz. He was not accepted, being regarded as a kulak, so he sold his inventory except for the horses and two cows and moved. The owner of Meza Saukant farm was a former soldier who died in a PW camp, and his wife and 18-year-old daughter were deported in the spring of 1948. After that, this farm belonged to the forestry service and the local forester and three families of forest workers lived there. The old man became a forest-worker. He had two rooms and a kitchen, kept one horse and one cow. Some money was deducted from the money earned, for rent, and taxes had to be paid for the privately-owned stock. Also one-half hectare of land was at their disposal, and for this land and the stock the old man had to pay 200 rubles taxes per year. Beyond that, he had to deliver 1000 liters of milk from each cow and three kilograms of wool from each sheep per year. They had two sheep and after the delivery of the wool for the State they had enough for stockings, mittens, and woolen clothing. Also they had old material saved from the time they were independent farmers. They even had the looms with them and also other furniture, and fared better than kolkhozniki. They kept one to two pigs per year and did not have to deliver meat to the State. Eggs also were not delivered to the State, but it is possible that they did not report the pigs and fowl. [redacted] the conditions grew worse since the old man had no help and all the money [redacted] was gone. They were paid 6 to 6.50 rubles per cubic meter of wood and 200 rubles for 1 hectare logged off. The norm was 6 cubic meters of firewood per day, but none of the workers achieved it. [redacted] together with the old man, usually made 4.5 or 5 cubic meters per day. There was no punishment for not fulfilling the norm, only that payment was according to the work actually done. In forestry work, the norm was two hectares in four days. They worked leisurely, usually from 1000 until 1600-1700, both in winter and summer. They were paid by the forester, who took the accounts to Lepaya, where the salary was figured

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out and the money given to the forester, who brought it back and paid the workers. In Meza Saukanti the direct supervision was done by the assistant forester. Besides the routine work there was a possibility of earning additional money as a beater during hunts; a beater received 15 rubles per day. Anybody was accepted as a beater and there were hares, foxes, roebucks, and boar as game. The hunters were militiamen and civilian VIPs; for an ordinary citizen could not obtain a gun or permit. The forester and the assistant forester possessed guns [redacted]

[redacted] In Meza Saukanti lived a Soviet woman who was living there during the war as a refugee from the USSR proper, and did not want to return now. Generally the workers were not satisfied with the life and often wished that changes would come. Some hoped the Germans would come back.

2. The prices [redacted] are as follows:

Article	Unit	Price (in rubles)
Shoes, work		about 200 rb
Man's suit		above 1000 rb
Bicycle		800 to 1000 rb
Motorbike		4000 to 6000 rb
Fishhooks	10	1 rb
Papirosi	20	4-5 rb
Brandy	1 ltr	about 60 rb
Potatoes	100 kg	26 to 32 rb
Bread	2 kg loaf	5 rb
Butter	1 kg	26 to 36 rb (depending on season)
Egg	1	1 rb
Bacon	1 kg	32 rb

3. Since the old man was owner of a horse, he made additional money transporting lumber out of the woods to the station or to the highway where the lumber could be loaded onto trucks. For transporting one cubic meter of lumber with his own horse he was paid about 16 rubles, more or less depending on the distance. The only disadvantage was that it was difficult to obtain food for the horse, and therefore the horse was not well kept or strong. In some respects the kolkhozy horses were well off, however, not lacking food. On the other hand, the kolkhozy lacked horse-power because many horses had been taken for the army. The kolkhozy would buy horses if somebody offered one for sale, and such trade was allowed, as it was legal to own a horse privately.

4. In 1949 [redacted] managed to make a bicycle from old parts. In the spring of 1950 he obtained a permit to use it and a license. It was issued by the ciema padome, the administration of the rural community. The chairman of the ciema padome was the brother of the local militiaman. The bicycle was put together from old parts of a German-make bicycle. Even though he obtained the bicycle license, [redacted] registered in the community, and the Latvian militiaman apparently did not bother about it in order not to create any difficulties. By the fall of 1950 the Soviet chief of militia in Vainode somehow took note [redacted] and late in the fall of 1950 the militiaman came to the place [redacted] and said that by order of the chief he had to see that he became a registered member of the community. He could not be registered in Vainode, however, and had to go to the rayon office in Priekule (N56-27, E21-36). [redacted] went to the militia in Priekule and arrangements were made for issuance of a passport. [redacted] was asked to present his birth certificate, but he did not have any. The militia in Priekule wrote to [redacted] East Prussia [redacted] but received no positive reply. The passport was issued, nevertheless, with a remark in it that a birth certificate was not available. This remark was in Russian. [redacted] does not know whether all horses were supposed to have passports [redacted] A privately-owned horse had a passport issued by the ciema padome. It was a small booklet indicating the name of the owner, his address, and the following data on the horse:

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age, height, length, name. The passport was not taken along when somebody drove the horse even long distances, so probably the purpose was only to prove ownership.

5. The school nearest to Meza Saukanti was in Bata. In Bata there was an eight-grade elementary school. There were four teachers, two men and two women, all young people and communistic. One of the teachers was the wife of the forester who supervised the Meza Saukanti forest. [redacted] the boys of the higher grades damaged the Red Corner and were punished for it. [redacted] for the first and second offenses a fine was imposed, but for the third offense the penalty was a prison sentence. One of the boys was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for a third offense against the Red Corner and Stalin's picture.

6. In May 1951, militia arrived and told [redacted] to prepare himself for travel immediately. He had about half an hour's time and was then taken to the rayon militia office in Priekule. The local militiaman was not able to be lenient, since it was an order from the rayon. [redacted] the purpose of the haste was to prevent his making arrangements as to future correspondence or getting instructions to look for relatives when in Germany. In Priekule there was another German to be repatriated, a girl, and these two were brought to another place and there joined by two more Germans, and then all of them were taken to Siauliai, Lithuania. In Siauliai all documents were taken away.

7. All males reaching 18 were drafted into the Soviet armed forces starting in 1949. The draft board came once a year, in the spring. The draft was continued until 1951. Near Vainode, in the valley at Kalnuiza (N56-59, E22-00), an airfield was built and it was not finished in May 1951. The air force personnel lived in barracks near the airfield and wore the same uniforms as infantry, only the color of the material was a bit lighter.

8. A man who had been in the German army was in a PW camp in Vorkuta, Siberia, and wrote from Vorkuta regularly, a letter per month. He wrote normal letters, not on a PW printed form. He wrote just that he was well, and the relatives understood that he could not write more, especially not as to the reason why he was not discharged yet and when it could be expected. The parents sent him a parcel every month with food and cigarettes, or tobacco. All these parcels reached him and were never lost. Other correspondence from Latvia to Siberia and vice versa was carried on with a family deported in the spring of 1949 from a neighboring farm. This family also wrote that they were well off.

[redacted] No letter bore a sign that it had been censored.

9. The nearest railroad station was Vainode on the Lepaya-Mazeikiai-Riga line. [redacted] There was a bus line Vainode-Bata-Priekule-Lepaya. It left Vainode for Lepaya at 1100. The fare Vainode - Lepaya was 16 rubles. [redacted] in 1950, [redacted] Lepaya was declared a restricted area. The bus was used as far as Priekule since then. The bus came back from Lepaya the next morning and arrived at Vainode at 0900, departing again for Lepaya at 1100. When requested to obtain a passport, [redacted] traveled to Priekule using a horse furnished by the nearby kolkhoz. Since it was on official business, transportation was furnished by the kolkhoz upon request from the militia. In the winter of 1950-51 it was a very good winter road for sledges. In the vicinity there were no paved roads, all of them being gravel. There were not many bicycles to be seen since they were too expensive for an average worker to purchase, and mostly old bicycles were seen on the roads. [redacted] there was a checkpoint at Aizpute for people going to Lepaya by road. [redacted] cars seldom, and only trucks transporting lumber were seen often on the roads.

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